

Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Congressman Michael A. Arcuri (D-NY) today announced that they have secured a \$791,700 federal grant for Broome County to purchase two new hybrid-electric transit buses. Hinchey used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to two years ago to have a provision written into a spending bill that allocated the money for the new buses. The U.S. Department of Transportation is administering the funds.

"By shifting to hybrid-electric buses, Broome County is serving as a national model for the future of mass transit vehicles," **Hinchey said**. "These new hybrid-electric buses are much better for the environment than standard buses and will serve Broome County residents very well. We already know that the use of mass transit is a critical way to save the environment and cut down on energy costs, so using hybrid buses makes public transportation that much more valuable. Additionally, these federal funds will spare county taxpayers the bulk of the cost for these new hybrid buses."

**Arcuri said**, "I'm proud to be able to announce this grant to invest in alternative energy transportation here in the Southern Tier. It is critically important not only to invest in improved transportation infrastructure to help grow the economy in Broome County, but to invest in alternative energy vehicles that save money on gas and keep the local environment clean. I am glad to work with Representative Hinchey to continue to bring federal resources to help environmentally sound development in the Southern Tier."

**County Executive Barbara Fiala said**, "We are delighted to receive these funds and are anxious to enter into the hybrid era of public transportation. I want to thank both Congressman Hinchey and Arcuri for their support for Broome County Transit. I especially want to thank Congressman Hinchey who has been a tremendous advocate for us and our efforts to secure hybrid busses for our fleet."

Hybrid-electric technology, which integrates batteries with a diesel engine, combines the benefits of advanced internal combustion power with the cleanliness of electric vehicle technology. The replacement of traditional buses with hybrids will result in less fuel consumption, much lower vehicle emissions and substantially less operating noise. Hybrids are well suited to stop-and-go driving since the buses' batteries are recharged by regenerative braking. The annual operating/maintenance expenses are also substantially lower, thus saving the community money. The hybrid buses that Broome County will use the grant to purchase are designed and constructed by BAE Systems of Johnson City and Orion Bus Industries in

Oriskany, New York.

Hinchey has secured \$3 million in federal funds over the past several years for Broome County to purchase hybrid-electric buses. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and Broome County will make up any additional funds needed to purchase the new hybrid buses.

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